



Newsletter

Worship Opportunities

LIVE STREAM ONLY

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

At this time, due to COVID restrictions and the rising number of daily new cases, our in-person worship is being postponed until a time when we can be more assured it is safe for our congregation to gather without risking anyone's health.



Greetings to you Beloved of God!

Ever since I formed my earliest memories of grade school, it has been ingrained in me that February is Black History Month. It was the one month during the school year when we paid particular attention to people like Rosa Parks who refused to give her seat up for a white man, Martin Luther King, Jr. who was one of the most influential voices in the civil rights movement, Katherine Johnson who helped calculate the orbit for the 1969 Apollo 11 flight to the moon, and Dr. Charles Drew who revolutionized blood donation through an understanding of blood plasma vs. whole blood donation.

I don't think I understood then what a crucial part of our world view Black history is. Nor did I understand the importance of all of it. I mean I was 6 years old in first grade. It would be years still before I would understand the concepts of racial tension, or even understand what racism is. It would be even longer before I understood the concept of white-washing history, a practice that even affects our understanding of who Christ was and is.

These were lessons I should've learned sooner... much sooner.

You see, Black history and recognizing the struggles and the accomplishments of Black and Indigenous Persons of Color (BIPOC) needs to be authentically

acknowledged and taught in our every day. Not just in February. This is part of the push behind Bishop Stanovsky's call to dismantle racism. We are called to educate ourselves as to the real and deep seeded issues of racism in our culture, whether they be systemic, overt, or subtle.

Education is a good place to begin this work. How do we make ourselves aware of the racism that exists in the world; or dare I say it, even within ourselves? By learning about what racism is and how it works to subvert the work of racial progress. In working to better understand the questions and realities around antiracism work, I am looking to begin a book study in the near future. I invite anyone who wants to join me on this journey. Look for more information in the coming weeks. Until then, remember that we are the people of God called to Love Others and Value Everyone equally and with equity.

May God bless you in your journey of faith and your practice of loving others.

Pastor Tom
Pastor Tom

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COVID Update - As of February 3

Looking at the reported information below, the trend for new cases is going down for the state of Oregon. Numbers in Clackamas County are also going down in a Continued trend. We will continue to hold off on in person worship at this time. *If Clackamas County numbers continue in the current downward trend, we may be able to come back to worship in seven to nine weeks, after a period of consistently low transmission rates.*

Clackamas County (population 420,000)	Last Week	Sunday	Today
Daily new cases per population of 100K:	144.2	115.8	98.6
Infection Rate:	1.01	~0.80	0.83
Positive Test Rate:	21.9%	18.4%	18.4%

Oregon State (population 4,200,000)	Last Week	Sunday	Today
Daily new cases per population of 100K:	187.7	146.7	130.8
Infection Rate:	1.10	~0.86	0.90
Positive Test Rate:	23.5%	20.1%	20.1%



NELSON, JAN	02/01
MYERS, QUINCY	02/06
PALMER, SIDNEY	02/11
RENARDO, GIANA	02/12
BENTLEY, JACK	02/17
OLIVAS, NATE	02/18
MAGEE, MIKE	02/21
SCHLOSSER, RON	02/21
CRUIKSHANK, BENJAMIN	02/23
ORQUIZA-RENARDO, ROM	02/28

Pastor Tom's Schedule for Feb 6-11

Afternoons will be in and out Appointments are always welcome to be scheduled.

Sun: Virtual Worship at 10am

Mon: Day off, no office hours

Tue: 10am-2pm

Wed: 1pm-6:30pm

Worship Design at 5pm

Thu: 10am-2pm

Fri: 10am-2pm, Sermon planning

10am Pastoral meeting



Mission Possible Team Update

With the new year, the Mission Possible Team is doing some planning for future activities and projects. We would like YOUR help!! First, if you would like to participate in the mission and community service projects that Mission Possible is involved in, we would LOVE to have you join us. Second, we would really like to hear your ideas for projects Mission Possible could undertake in the coming year. If you know of programs or needs in our community that could really use our help, please let us know!!

If you have any questions, would like to be involved, or have ideas for projects, please call or email Jane Myers (jccmyers@hotmail.com or 503-652-3009) or Chris Larson (chrislarson53@gmail.com or 503-655-4080) WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!



Our Weekly Giving

How will your congregation observe Black History Month? You might borrow an idea from Haven Chapel United Methodist Church, Meridian, Mississippi.

In 2015, the congregation wrote, directed and performed a play titled "The Committee," which featured historical figures engaged in the Civil Rights movement. These included Rosa Parks, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., song artist Sammy Cook and the mother of young Emmett Till who was murdered in 1955.

Another year, Haven Chapel focused on the power of the Black church in the life of the community. Each week, two people (one older and one younger) shared how their faith was shaped during hard times by the presence of the Black church. They focused on historic hymns and how music sustains the Black community. Sermons tied Scripture with the faithful actions of heroic people who sometimes paid the ultimate price for a small share of freedom. The month closed with a program featuring drama, music and readings.

Be creative in celebrating Black History Month!